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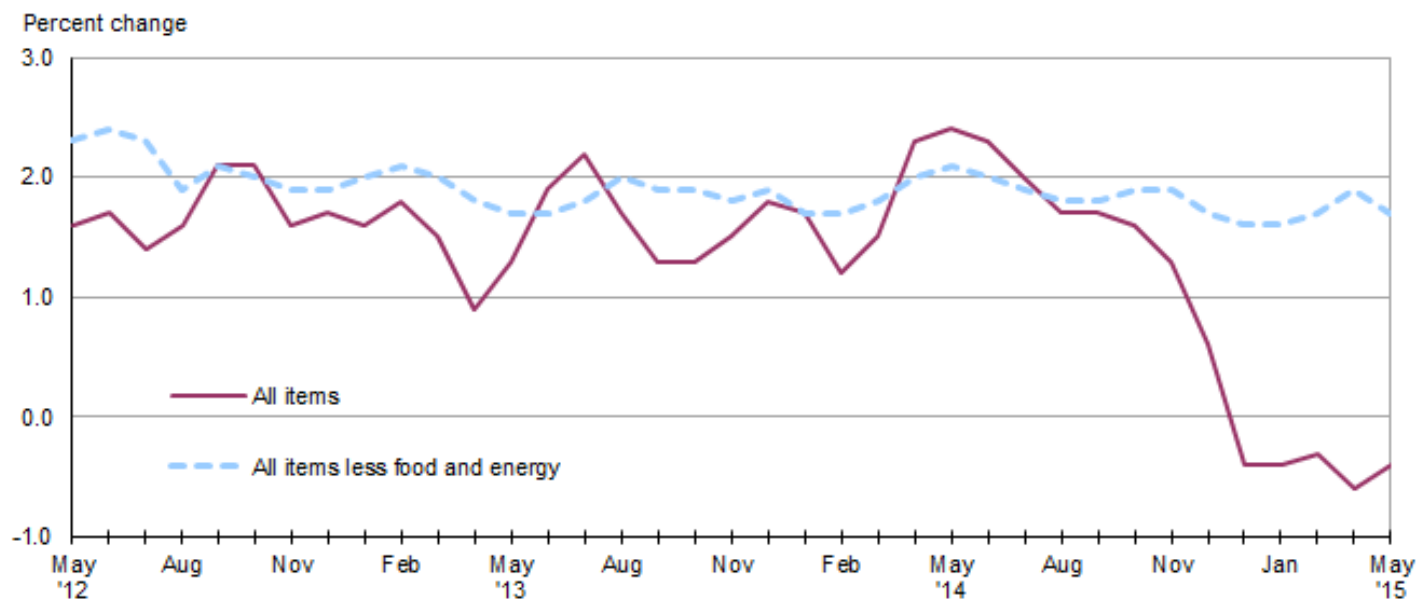
Consumer Price Index, South Region – May 2015

Prices up 0.4 percent over the month; down 0.4 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South increased 0.4 percent in May, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The rise of the overall index was led by a 4.3-percent increase in the energy index. The all items less food and energy index was unchanged and the food index inched up 0.1 percent over the month. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the all items CPI-U declined 0.4 percent, the fifth consecutive month of over-the-year declines for this index. The all items less food and energy index advanced 1.7 percent over the year as several categories within this group recorded increases. (See [chart 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, May 2012–May 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index inched up 0.1 percent in May, as prices for food away from home edged up 0.3 percent. Prices for food at home were unchanged over the month.

Since May 2014, the food index advanced 1.6 percent, reflecting price increases for both food away from home and food at home, up 3.1 and 0.5 percent, respectively.

Energy

The energy index rose 4.3 percent over the month, mainly due to an 8.5-percent advance in motor fuel prices. The electricity index also increased, up 0.8 percent, while prices for utility (piped) gas service declined 3.3 percent.

Over the year, energy prices fell 18.0 percent, reflecting a 28.3-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Utility (piped) gas service prices declined 14.3 percent since May 2014 and electricity prices decreased 1.4 percent.

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index was unchanged in May, as small increases in shelter (0.1 percent) and medical care (0.3 percent) prices were offset by a few categories including a 2.1-percent seasonal decline in apparel prices.

Since May 2014, the all items less food and energy index advanced 1.7 percent, led by price increases in several categories, most notably shelter (2.9 percent) and medical care (2.2 percent).

Table A. South region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.5	1.7	0.5	3.2	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.7	-0.7	-0.4
February.....	0.5	2.2	0.6	3.3	0.9	1.8	0.4	1.2	0.5	-0.3
March.....	1.2	2.8	0.7	2.8	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.6	-0.3
April.....	0.7	3.4	0.4	2.5	-0.2	0.9	0.5	2.3	0.3	-0.6
May.....	0.5	4.0	-0.4	1.6	0.0	1.3	0.2	2.4	0.4	-0.4
June.....	-0.2	3.8	-0.2	1.7	0.4	1.9	0.2	2.3		
July.....	0.2	4.1	-0.2	1.4	0.2	2.2	-0.1	2.0		
August.....	0.4	4.3	0.6	1.6	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.7		
September.....	0.0	4.1	0.5	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.1	1.7		
October.....	-0.2	3.7	-0.2	2.1	-0.2	1.3	-0.3	1.6		
November.....	0.0	3.8	-0.5	1.6	-0.3	1.5	-0.6	1.3		
December.....	-0.2	3.3	-0.1	1.7	0.1	1.8	-0.6	0.6		

The Consumer Price Index for June 2015 is scheduled to be released on Friday, July 17, 2015.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately

24,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **South region** is comprised of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Mar. 2015	Apr. 2015	May 2015	May 2014	Mar. 2015	Apr. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	229.337	229.957	230.886	-0.4	0.7	0.4
All items (December 1977=100).....	372.017	373.023	374.529	-	-	-
Food and beverages	245.020	244.636	244.851	1.6	-0.1	0.1
Food	246.392	245.962	246.196	1.6	-0.1	0.1
Food at home	240.999	239.926	239.835	0.5	-0.5	0.0
Food away from home.....	257.298	257.813	258.529	3.1	0.5	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	225.250	225.502	225.458	1.3	0.1	0.0
Housing	219.868	220.275	220.528	1.9	0.3	0.1
Shelter	248.935	249.515	249.802	2.9	0.3	0.1
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	255.041	255.547	255.748	3.5	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	251.109	251.632	251.990	2.8	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	251.099	251.622	251.982	2.8	0.4	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	227.759	227.105	227.574	-1.7	-0.1	0.2
Household energy	186.675	185.968	186.421	-3.5	-0.1	0.2
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	186.706	186.013	186.536	-3.2	-0.1	0.3
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	186.078	185.509	186.980	-1.4	0.5	0.8
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	175.343	173.902	168.220	-14.3	-4.1	-3.3
Household furnishings and operations.....	122.225	122.784	122.777	-0.2	0.5	0.0
Apparel.....	137.271	139.604	136.621	-0.6	-0.5	-2.1
Transportation	197.631	199.151	204.147	-9.0	3.3	2.5
Private transportation	195.573	197.101	201.689	-9.1	3.1	2.3
New and used motor vehicles ⁽³⁾	103.287	104.254	104.313	0.4	1.0	0.1
New vehicles	153.378	154.314	154.261	0.6	0.6	0.0
New cars and trucks ^{(3) (4)}	104.409	105.042	105.005	0.6	0.6	0.0
New cars ⁽⁴⁾	154.853	155.468	155.354	-0.2	0.3	-0.1
Used cars and trucks.....	146.965	149.632	150.400	0.2	2.3	0.5
Motor fuel	206.124	208.485	226.151	-28.3	9.7	8.5
Gasoline (all types).....	204.709	207.214	225.036	-28.3	9.9	8.6
Unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾	201.386	203.761	221.807	-28.8	10.1	8.9
Unleaded midgrade ^{(4) (5)}	219.436	222.556	239.714	-27.1	9.2	7.7
Unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾	215.445	218.536	234.639	-25.3	8.9	7.4
Medical care	421.612	422.149	423.536	2.2	0.5	0.3
Medical care commodities.....	337.267	338.125	340.143	3.5	0.9	0.6
Medical care services.....	450.117	450.505	451.591	1.7	0.3	0.2
Professional services	354.899	355.417	355.712	1.0	0.2	0.1
Recreation ⁽³⁾	116.300	116.731	116.554	0.0	0.2	-0.2
Education and communication ⁽³⁾	134.890	135.079	134.875	0.6	0.0	-0.2
Other goods and services	404.454	403.625	404.332	1.5	0.0	0.2
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	229.337	229.957	230.886	-0.4	0.7	0.4
Commodities	182.729	183.405	184.788	-4.0	1.1	0.8
Commodities less food and beverages	152.884	153.965	155.777	-7.1	1.9	1.2
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	195.422	196.880	200.889	-11.0	2.8	2.0
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	231.814	232.803	240.844	-13.9	3.9	3.5
Durables	112.253	112.983	112.907	-0.8	0.6	-0.1
Services.....	276.505	277.077	277.576	2.1	0.4	0.2
Rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	255.387	255.972	256.266	2.9	0.3	0.1
Transportation services	308.514	309.595	312.266	1.9	1.2	0.9

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Mar. 2015	Apr. 2015	May 2015	May 2014	Mar. 2015	Apr. 2015
Other services	329.586	330.713	330.600	1.8	0.3	0.0
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	218.675	219.292	220.191	-0.6	0.7	0.4
All items less food	226.485	227.264	228.298	-0.7	0.8	0.5
All items less shelter	222.864	223.505	224.706	-1.8	0.8	0.5
Commodities less food	155.151	156.212	157.980	-6.9	1.8	1.1
Nondurables	219.127	219.734	221.992	-5.0	1.3	1.0
Nondurables less food	196.879	198.270	202.050	-10.3	2.6	1.9
Nondurables less food and apparel	230.106	231.027	238.346	-12.8	3.6	3.2
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	311.717	312.288	313.063	1.2	0.4	0.2
Services less medical care services	260.730	261.302	261.755	2.1	0.4	0.2
Energy	191.746	192.447	200.710	-18.0	4.7	4.3
All items less energy	234.275	234.887	234.996	1.7	0.3	0.0
All items less food and energy	232.551	233.346	233.433	1.7	0.4	0.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	149.226	150.118	149.613	-0.3	0.3	-0.3
Energy commodities	209.976	212.298	229.848	-28.1	9.5	8.3
Services less energy services	285.900	286.614	287.109	2.5	0.4	0.2

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.